
NEW BOOKS

On Equity

by Justice P W Young AO, Clyde Croft QC and Megan Smith

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In the preface to this text, the learned authors state, without apology, that the progress on this work “has been stately — it has taken over ten years to assemble”. It is perhaps an example of that old adage that all good things take time.

The book is, as the authors note, the first wholly new work on Australian equity for some time.

The aim of the work is “to provide a comprehensive, one-volume book to cover the whole of the subject of Equity”. There is no question that the authors have achieved their objective.

The book is assembled into 18 chapters, each of which is divided into sections which clearly, concisely and comprehensively state the relevant principles and provide illustrations.

The authors first provide a history and overview of the principles of equity. The relevant equitable doctrines are then examined, including sections on fraud, fiduciary relationships, property in equity, mortgages, equitable

assignments, contracts and miscellaneous equities. The work concludes with excursions on equitable remedies and defences.

The value of a legal text can be measured by the ease with which a reader can identify the relevant principles and apply them to the resolution of a problem under consideration. This reviewer has had several occasions on which to consult *On Equity* since its publication. I have found the work easy to navigate and, more importantly, easy to apply to issues under consideration. The illustrations in the work are particularly useful in understanding the application of the principles in practice.

There is no question that this work will rival the more established works on the subject, including the seminal equity text *Meagher, Gummow and Lehane’s Equity, Doctrines and Remedies*. It is an essential addition to every equity practitioner’s library.



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